

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

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FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2661

INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY GABRONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USUN NEW YORK 225

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF

SUBJ: SECURITY POLICE ALLEGEDLY BREAK UP ANC-S.A. COMMUNIST
PARTY TERRORISM NETWORK

IREF: A. DURBAN 513 AND PREVIOUS, B. PRETORIA 3772 C. PRETORIA 3503

1. SUMMARY: S.A. PRESS REPORTED AUGUST 29 THAT SECURITY POLICE
HAD SMASHED ANC-S.A. COMMUNIST PARTY (SACP) TERRORISM NET-
WORK AND BASES IN NATAL AND TRANSVAAL. ACCORDING TO ARTICLES,
NETWORK WAS A PRODUCT OF PLOT MASTERMINDED BY EXILED SACP
LEADER JOE SLOVO. NUMBER OF TERRORISTS ARRESTED WAS NOT RE-
VEALED, BUT POLICE SAID THEY WOULD BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL SOON.

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POLICE ALLEGEDLY SEIZED LARGE NUMBERS OF ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES,
DOCUMENTS OUTLINING FUTURE PLANS OF TERRORISTS AND, APPARENTLY,
LISTS OF RECRUITS WHO LEFT COUNTRY FOR ANC TERRORIST
TRAINING. ARTICLES CLAIMED DEFENDANTS IN RECENTLY-CONCLUDED
PIETERMARITZBURG ANC TRIAL WERE AMONG LEADERS OF NETWORK.
END SUMMARY.

2. AUGUST 29 S.A. PRESS REPORTED THAT S.A. YECURITY POLICE HAD SMASHED AN EXTENSIVE ANC-SACP TERRORIST BASE NETWORK IN NATAL AND TRANSVAAL. TERRORISTS REPORTEDLY WERE ENGAGED IN URBAN TERRORISM AND RECRUPTING BLACK YOUTHS FOR OVERSEAS TRAINING. POLICE RAIDS FOLLOWED PUBLICITY IN RECENT WEEKS ABOUT "ANC-SACP MASTER PLAN TO OVERTHROW SAG" (REF B) AND NEW ANTI-TERRORISM BORDER CAMPAIGN (REF C). ALTHOUGH REPORT DID NOT GIVE DATES OF THE REPORTED RAIDS, SOME DURBAN SOURCES SAY THEY TOOK PLACE DURING LAST THREE WEEKS, CULMINATING ON AUGUST 24. ANOTHER JOURNALIST SOURCE INSISTS THE RAIDS TOOK PLACE AS LONG AGO AS LATE JUNE AND ARE ONLY NOW BEING PUBLICIZED.

3. ACCORDING TO ARTICLES, WHICH WERE ACCOMPANIED BY SEVERAL PICTURES OF POLICE "IN ACTION" DURING AND AFTER RAIDS, MORE THAN 100 HEAVILY ARMED POLICE TOOK PART IN OPERATION. MOST BASES REPORTEDLY WERE IN RUGGED AREAS INLAND OF SOUTH COAST OF NATAL, POSSIBLY IN ORIBI GORGE AREA NEAR TRANSKEI. POLICE WOULD NOT REVEAL NUMBER OF BASES DESTROYED OR NAMES OF TERRORISTS ARRESTED, BUT STATED THAT PRISONERS WOULD BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL IN NEAR FUTURE. POLICE ADMITTED SOME TERRORISTS AVOIDED POLICE CAMPAIGN AND ESCAPED TO "NEIGHBORING STATES" (PRESUMABLY LESOTHO OR TRANSKEI). A PRESS SOURCE HAS INDICATED THAT POLICE BELIEVE ONE OF THE MORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPORTANT TERRORIST LEADERS IS STILL AT LARGE IN S.A.

4. REPORTS SAID POLICE HAD SEIZED CONSIDERABLE CACHES OF SOVIET-MADE ARMS AND AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES, AND BOOBY TRAPS, AND "VAST" SUMS OF MONEY AND DOCUMENTS DETAILING FUTURE INCURSION PLANS. RAIDS ALSO REPORTEDLY SEIZED DOCUMENTS DETAILING SECRET INVASION ROUTES AND HIDEOUTS AND LISTS OF YOUTHS UNDERGOING ANC TERRORISM TRAINING OVERSEAS. AMONG DOCUMENTS WAS ONE "PROVING" THAT PLANS FOR SETTING UP NETWORKS WERE MADE AT A SECRET AUGUST 1975 MEETING IN PIETERMARITZBURG AT WHICH THE REVIVAL OF THE ANC AND THE ANC-ALLIED

SOUTH AFRICAN CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (SACTU) AND THE FORMATION OF A TERRORIST-RECRUITMENT NETWORK WAS DISCUSSED. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, LEADER OF GROUP AT MEETING WAS JOSEPH MDLULI, WHO WAS LATER ARRESTED AND CHARGED, ALONG WITH TEN OTHER DEFENDANTS, WITH ANC TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. ALTHOUGH MDLULI DIED IN DETENTION DURING EARLY STAGES OF TRIAL, ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING WAS A KEY FACTOR LEADING TO CONVICTION OF FOUR OTHER DEFENDANTS AT THE RECENTLY-CONCLUDED PIETERMARITZBURG ANC TRIAL (REF A). DOCUMENTS ALSO ALLEGEDLY REVEAL THAT JOE SLOVO (55), EXILED JOHANNESBURG ATTORNEY AND

SACP LEADER BASED IN LONDON, MASTER-MINDED PLOT TO FORM NETWORK ALONG WITH JACK HODGSON, "SABOTAGE ADVISER TO THE ANC" AND RONNIE KASRILS, "TECHNICAL ADVISER TO THE ANC MILITARY WING UNKONTO WE SIZWE" (SPEAR OF THE NATION).

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5. ACCORDING TO REPORTS TERRORISTS HAD ALREADY ENGAGED IN SOME MINOR OPERATIONS, INCLUDING GOCH STREET SHOOTING IN JOHANNESBURG AND JUNE 15 BOMBING OF RAILWAY LINE AT UMLAZI TOWNSHIP NEAR DURBAN. REPORTEDLY ARREST AND INTERROGATION OF SOME OF PERPETRATORS OF THESE INCIDENTS LED POLICE TO OTHERS AND, EVENTUALLY, TO ENTIRE NETWORK AND INTERNAL ORGANIZING WING.

6. IN ACCOMPANYING ARTICLES WHICH APPEARED IN NATAL MERCURY, REPORTER LEON MELLET, DESCRIBED BY SOURCES AS A HARD-NOSED, CONSERVATIVE AFRIKANER REPORTER, SUMMARIZED ANC INSURGENCY AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES SINCE 1955. MELLET WROTE THAT ANC
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HAD PLANNED IN INCURSION IN 1973 BY SENDING TERRORISTS BY SHIP FROM DAR ES SALAAM TO TRANSKEI COAST WHERE THEY WOULD LAND TO SET UP BASES. HOWEVER SHIP BROKE DOWN OUTSIDE DAR, AND PLOT COLLAPSED. ANC REVIVAL MEETING, MELLET STATES, WAS DIRECT RESULT OF THIS FAILURE AND WAS AIMED AT INFILTRATING TERRORISTS INTO AND OUT OF S.A. THROUGH BOTSWANA AND SWAZILAND AND RECRUITING YOUTHS FOR OVERSEAS TERRORIST TRAINING. IN PARALLEL ARTICLE HEADLINED "CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT TO POLICE", MELLET SAID ANC PUBLICATIONS FOUND IN RAIDS REVEALED THAT ANC ADVISED CAPTURED TERRORISTS TO LIE ABOUT ACTIVITIES, DENY WRONGDOING, AND CLAIM POLICE TORTURE AND ASSAULT AS KEY TO DEFENSE IN TRIALS. MAIN GOAL, ACCORDING TO PUBLICATIONS, IS TO HOLD POLICE UP TO RIDICULE AND UNDERMINE THEIR CREDIBILITY IN EYES OF PUBLIC.

7. AUGUST 30 NATAL MERCURY REPORTED THAT MRS. ADELAIDE TAMBO, WIFE OF ACTING ANC PRESIDENT OLIVER TAMBO, CONFIRMED IN LONDON THAT ARMS AND DOCUMENTS SEIZED IN RAIDS WERE SENT IN BY ANC AND WERE SUPPLIED BY EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES. SHE ALSO REPORTEDLY RIDICULED REPORT THAT JOE SLOVO HAD MASTERMINDED PLOT, STATING "THIS IS A RIDICULOUS FALLACY THAT IF A BLACK MAN DOES ANYTHING HE MUST BE LED BY THE NOSE BY A WHITE".

8. AUTHOR MELLET MENTIONED TO CONGEN SOURCE LAST WEEK THAT HE HAD BEEN WORKING ON "MAJOR PIECE" SOON TO BE PUBLISHED. GIVEN MELLET'S BACKGROUND AND REPUTATION, AND FROM MANY DETAILS HE CITES FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES, HE PROBABLY RECEIVED CLOSE COLLABORATION FROM POLICE IN PREPARING ARTICLES. DATE OF RELEASE OF ARTICLE (WITH FONSEC OWEN AND AMB YOUNG IN COUNTRY FOR TALKS WITH PM VORSTER) IS ALSO INTERESTING. FARBER

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